

CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT CHILD EX-COMBATANTS AND PREVENT RECRUITMENT OF CHILDREN BY IRREGULAR ARMED GROUPS



THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT

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<i>ACRONYMS</i>	
ICBF	Colombian Institute of Family Welfare
CH&Y	Children and Youths
CNRR	Colombian National Commission for Reparation and Reconciliation
ACRSE	High Council for Social and Economical Reintegration
CROJ	Youth Reference and Opportunity Centres
SENA	National Learning Service
SNBF	National System of Family Welfare
MIMA	Integral Model for Marketing and Business Administration
MEN	National Ministry of Education
CIPR	National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment
MDN	Ministry of National Defense
GAO	General Attorney's Office
CRIC	Regional Indigenous Council
ICR	Reintegration Conditions Index
CAL	Childhood and Adolescence Law (1098 of 2006)
CAE	Specialized Assistance Centers
MVRO	Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunity Maps
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
PSU	Psychoactive Substances Use
IAG	Irregular Armed Groups

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report concerns the activities during the period of July through September 2009, of the *New Consolidation Program to Support Child Ex-Combatants and Prevent Recruitment of Children by Irregular Armed Groups 2009-2011*, possible by the support of the American people – (USAID). This Program incorporated the results achieved by the original Program supported by USAID and implemented by IOM since 2001.

Direct Assistance to Under-Age Ex-Combatants component included a comprehensive strategy and methodologies to achieve CH&Y reintegration. The Program developed different processes for the reestablishment, guarantee of rights and social-economic reintegration of CH&Y released from IAG and prevents the recruitment of other vulnerable CH&Y. A total of 663 CH&Y were assisted out of which the average per ethnicity is of 74 Indigenous, 88 Afro-Colombians and 403 from other ethnic groups; 80 new beneficiaries entered the Program. The Program provided technical assistance to complete the administrative reparation process of 421 CH&Y with *Acción Social*.

Program staff fostered communication and visibility strategy objectives through: a) mapping activities; b) drafting best practices documents; c) beneficiaries' life stories documents; d) organizing and restructuring the International Seminar on recruitment prevention and assistance to ex-combatant children.

The Prevention Training component surpassed the proposal assistance goal with a total of 22,821 new beneficiaries and recruitment prevention activities nationwide. The Program prioritized strategic regions such as Montes de Maria and the Departments of Meta, Nariño, César and Valle del Cauca; due to the violence situation and economic constraints Program activities in these regions had a beneficial impact for vulnerable CH&Y. Capacity building activities, income generation projects as well as educational new strategies were key factors in preventing CH&Y recruitment this quarter.

Institutional Strengthening for *Colombianization* component focused on civil society reinforcement, including the participation of 49 new youth's organizations in a policymaking process in Meta. The Program continued working with key institutions to assure effective decentralization of Program strategies and interventions. Staff program transferred CROJ model; SIMONI; family settings methodologies and some leveling education models to local institutions in order to institutionalize best practices and methodologies at appropriate levels.

Key Special Results: The results include: (1) An increase in the number of beneficiaries in the Direct Assistance to Under-Age Ex-Combatants (2) Family- and foster-care modalities were strengthened and had a great positive impact on an average of 265 beneficiaries (3) Reparations projects and processes took place with the participation of 421 youths (4) CROJ improved service delivery for both social and economic incorporation of 986 youths in 179 municipalities (5) The Prevention Training component surpassed the proposal assistance goal with a total of 22,821 new beneficiaries and recruitment prevention activities nationwide.

2. CONTEXT

Throughout the three months under review, Colombia faced many internal political challenges. Tension is still present in the relations with Colombia and its neighbours and they only worsened with recent talks of possible American military bases in Colombian soil/ technical military support. The global economic crisis and the unstable trade relations between Colombia and Venezuela have weakened the economy.

According to OCHA, violence increased as a response to territorial disputes between IAG (Tumaco-Nariño). Youths were forcibly recruited by IAG in the Catatumbo region and civilian displacement was reported in El Charcho (Nariño), Ituango (Antioquia), Montelíbano (Córdoba) and Medio Atrato (Chocó). It is important to point out the humanitarian situation of the Awa's and Embera authorities in Risaralda and Nariño, whose traditional authority has been threatened by criminal gangs. From this situation indigenous children and youth continue to be vulnerable to the recruitment by IAG.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) released a report on Afro-Descendants Rights and Anti-Racial Discrimination. The document expressed concern on Colombia's afro-descendants who have endured a history of exclusion, and social and economic disadvantage; which impairs their enjoyment of fundamental rights. The report considered Afro-Colombians as the worst poverty-stricken class in the country, struggling with fewer opportunities, facing the lowest socioeconomic indicators and least access to basic services.

UNODC reported a major decline in coca bush cultivation in 2008 (18% decrease) in comparison to last year. Cocaine production fell 28 per cent; this decline was explained due to greater stress on manual eradication and further aerial spraying efforts.

On late August, the National Council for Economical and Social Policy (CONPES) approved 5.5 million dollars directed to finance the

Colombian Migration Policy (2009-2012). IOM provided technical assistance to the MFA for the formulation of the Colombian Migration Policy, which was recently approved.

The National Planning Department (DNP) through its government goals monitoring system (SIGOB) showed that up to August 31st, the government has already assisted 2.441.870 families through the *Familias en Accion* Program reaching 81.4% of the 2009 program goal.

UNHCR denounced that in the last 20 months, 42 individuals belonging to an indigenous group in Vaupes, were recruited by an irregular armed group, 11 of them were children. One of the most alarming cases is the one of *Pizamira*, an indigenous community with less than 50 members, of which three children were recruited by an IAG not identified by UNHCR.

During the past three months visibility towards violence against children and youth has been gaining strength. The UN's Secretary General expressed his preoccupation for the persistent murders, mutilations, violations and forced recruitment of minors in the Colombian armed conflict. The Report of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict in Colombia, warns that despite the efforts done by the Government, irregular armed groups continue violating the rights of children and adolescents.

Then Ombudsmen Office, The National Commission for Reintegration and Reconciliation, and the Observatory Mission of the Organization of American States have emphasised on the increase in child recruitment in the country. The ICBF registered the displacement of 65 indigenous girls and boys due to recruitment threats.¹

¹ ¹ El Tiempo, 21/09/09, pg. 1-7.

3. RESULTS

Indicators	Accumulated since 2001	Accumulated until 2008	Accumulated 2009	This quarter	Comments
Ex-combatant children	4,315	4,079	236	80	Program staff assisted 80 new beneficiaries; out of whom approximately 74 are indigenous and 84 are Afro-Colombian. Of the total, 73% are male and 27% female who benefited from initial Program activities.
Employment Opportunities	1,834	1702	132	86	As a result of the CROJ strategies, 86 employment opportunities were provided. Most beneficiaries started to work in the building sector, manufacturing, services and commerce.
Vocational skills training	5,466	4310	1.156	584	78 youths attended an initial training module at SENA to define their vocational profiles in Atlántico, Bogotá, Risaralda, Santander and Valle. In the complimentary training module there were a total of 227 beneficiaries and in the technical education module there were 27. With the help of other institutions 202 youths were referred to different CROJ centres.
Access to education	3,970	3734	236	80	100% of the new beneficiaries received special education assessments. Transportation subsidies and school materials were provided. This quarter 80 new beneficiaries accessed the educational system.
Access to health services	4,061	3825	236	80	80 new beneficiaries received medical assistance and check-ups. A total of 389 health services were provided.
Family reunification	842	787	55	25	A total of 25 family reunifications took place.
Beneficiaries participating in Recruitment Prevention activities	77,529	46,799 ²	30,730	22,821	Children and youths, as well as teachers, civil servants, families and community leaders participated in recruitment prevention activities.
Children & Youths	70,137	42,321	27,816	22,282	A total of 22,282 CH&Y benefited from different Project activities. The breakdown is: 4,072 CH&Y from <i>Aulas en Paz</i> , 10,060 CH&Y from PPN, 1,283 CH&Y from community peace initiatives, 1,445 CH&Y from other prevention initiatives through the strengthening of local public policy, 282 youths from income generating projects in Tolima, 375 youths from prevention projects in Montes de Maria, 242 youths working on public policy in Meta, 872 CH&Y from social cartography activities, 3,630 youths in <i>Clubes Juveniles</i> referenced from CROJ and 21 youths undergoing business trainings in Cartagena.
Teachers & Civil Servants	8,170	4,478	3,692	486	100 teachers participated in prevention projects in Antioquia, Arauca, Cesar, Valle del Cauca, Magdalena, Nariño and Norte de Santander. 351 civil servants participated in trainings held by the CIPR and 35 civil servants were trained in MVRO methodology in Meta.
Institutions strengthened	75	-	75	53	49 youths organizations participated in the process of elaborating public policy for the youths in Meta.

² The accumulated number of beneficiaries participating in Recruitment Prevention activities since 2001 until 2008 is the result of adding 42.321 direct beneficiaries reported in 31 FINAL Report to 4.478 civil servants, which were not included in the results chart.

4. ACTIVITIES

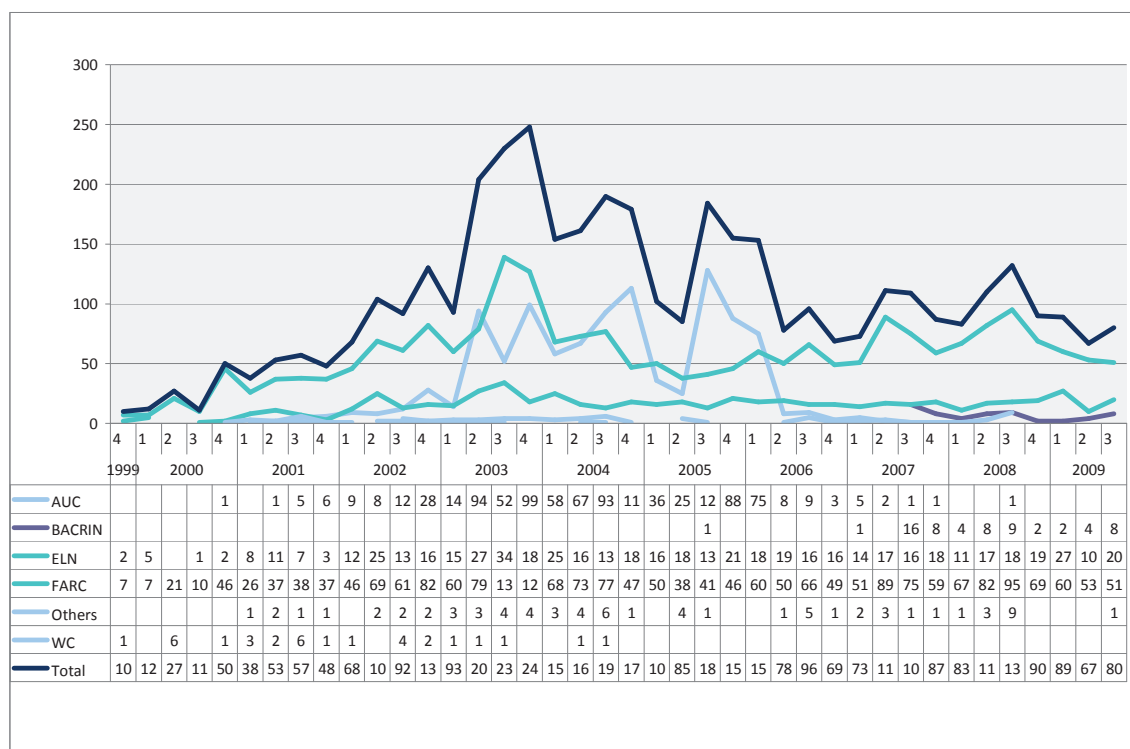
A. ASSISTANCE COMPONENT

The main objectives of the assistance component are: (i) promotion of extra-institutional “family” settings; and (ii) consolidation of pedagogical models and methodologies from earlier phases. As part of a tripartite partnership between the Government of Colombia (especially ICBF), USAID and IOM, Program staff drafted a 2009 joint work plan. IOM signed sixteen agreements with different NGOs to support educative, cultural and recreational activities.

TRENDS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES³

Since 1999, ICBF has worked on the reintegration of children and ex-combatants youth as a result of its commitment with Colombian childhood. In 2001, USAID and IOM joined efforts to undertake further work to assist children and youths disengaged from the IAG. This initiative fostered by the Colombian Government and international cooperation has proven to be fruitful.

Graph No. 1: Program Beneficiaries Vs Irregular Armed Group of Origin

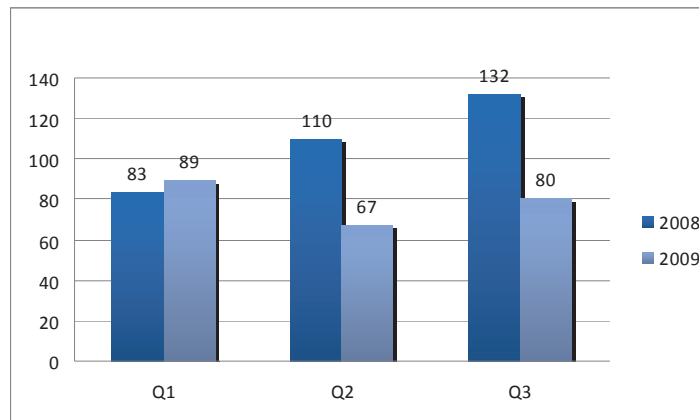


³ The trends and characterization of program beneficiaries were made based ICBF accumulated data. 4,032 Children assisted until June 30th 2009. However, the Program has assisted an accumulated of 4,235 children and youths with USAID and IOM support.

Since 2001, the Program with the support from USAID/IOM assisted a total of 4,315 CH&Y. During 2009, through the Consolidation Program, 236 CH&Y have received psychosocial, education and health assistance from which 80 new beneficiaries entered the Program.

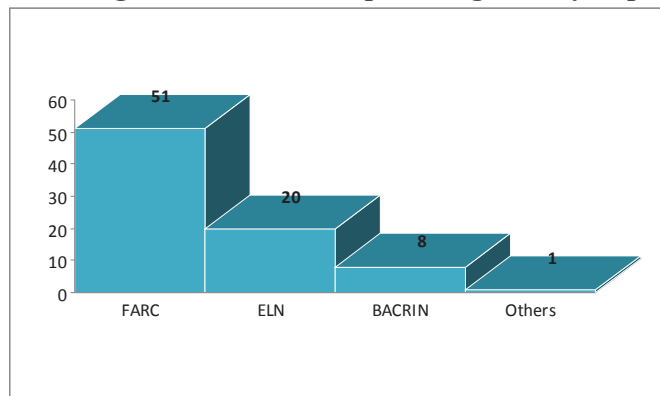
The trend related to IAG is steady, with the FARC being the principal origin of CH&Y assisted by the Program. Of the total 63.75% of the incoming beneficiaries came from FARC, 25% came from ELN and 10% from BACRIN (Emergent Criminal Groups). Since November of 1999 until September 30th, there are 815 voluntary disengaged CH&Y and 19% have been released from IAG; 73% males and 27% females.

Graph No. 2: Comparison between Program entries during January/Sept 2008 and January/September 2009

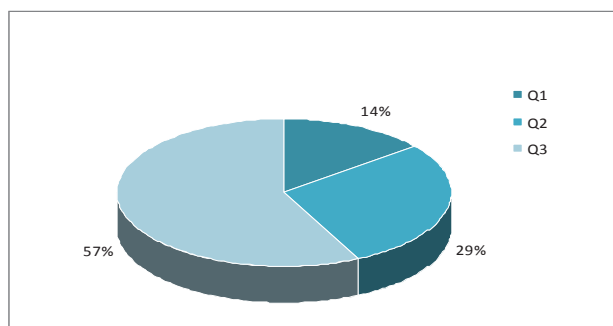


The graph shows that there has been a slight slowdown in the number of CH&Y disengaged from IAG and entering the Consolidation Program. Out of the 80 new beneficiaries, 77 left voluntarily and three were released by IAG; their ages are between nine and 17; 59 male and 21 females, of which one is pregnant and two are breast feeding.

Graph No. 3: Irregular Armed Group of Origin: July/September 2009

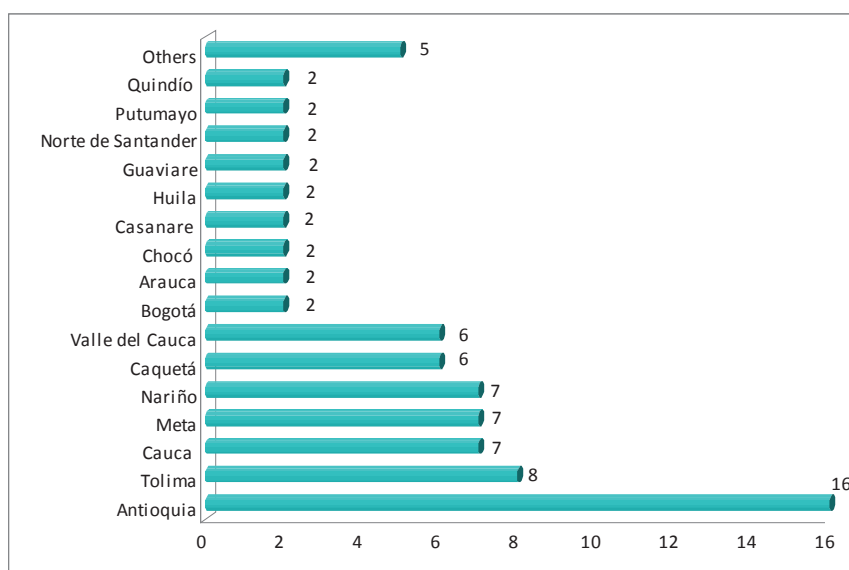


Graph No. 4: Beneficiaries released by BACRIN during 2009



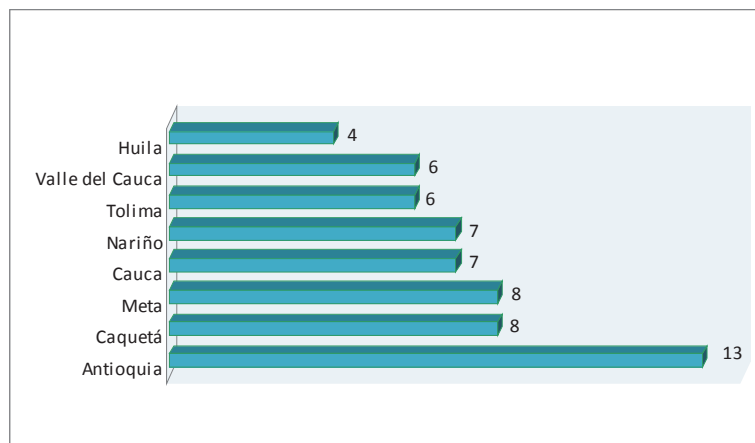
Even though BACRIN are not the main group of origin of the Program beneficiaries, during the implementation of the Program there was an increase of CH&Y released by BACRIN. A total of 57% of the beneficiaries came from gangs during the reporting period.

Graph No. 5: Origin of the Children and Youths Demobilized during the period. (By Departments)



The places of origin of the 80 CH&Y released during this period are: Antioquia (20%), followed by Tolima, Cauca, Meta and Nariño. All are departments with a history related to violence, poverty and low state presence.

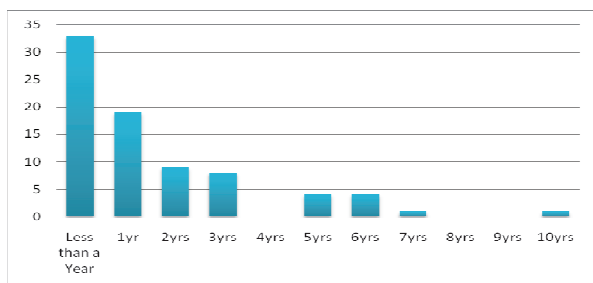
Graph No. 6: Main Departments where Children and Youths Demobilization Took Place



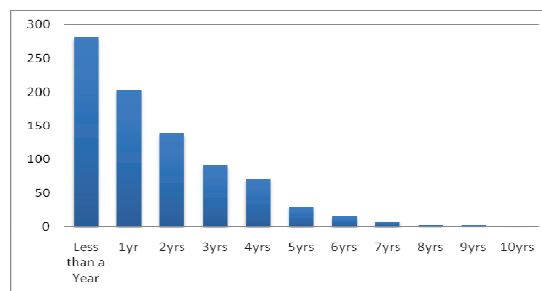
Antioquia is not only the department where most beneficiaries were born, but also the department where most releases took place during the reporting period. This matching trend also corresponds with Meta, Cauca, Caquetá and Nariño.

Graph No. 7: Time Spent at IAG by CH&Y participating in the Program

This Quarter:

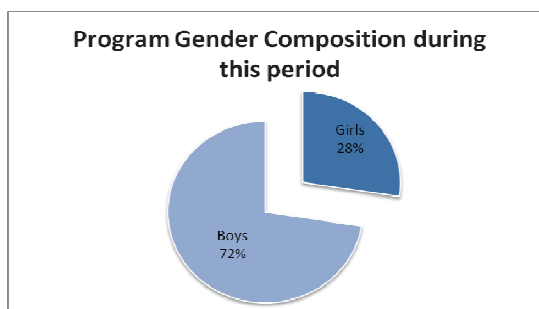
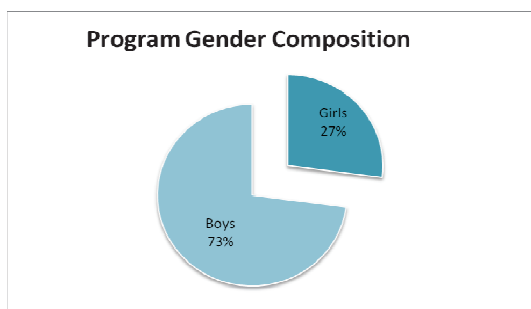


Historic Trend: *This information is based on 844 registrees



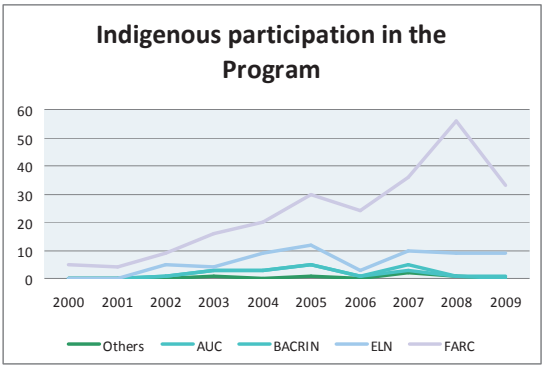
Most of the CH&Y released by IAG remain within the groups between less than a year and two years.

Graph No. 8: Program Gender Composition



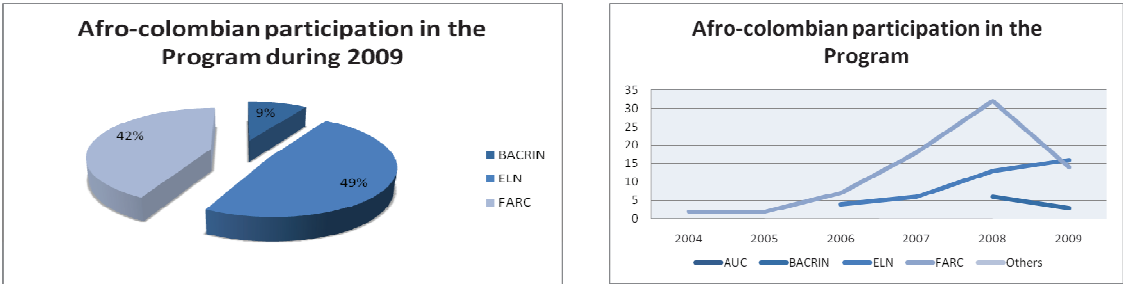
The program has shown during the years a clear gender trend: around 72% of the ex-combatant children are boys and 28% girls. During the reporting period this trend persisted

Graph No. 9: Program Ethnic Composition



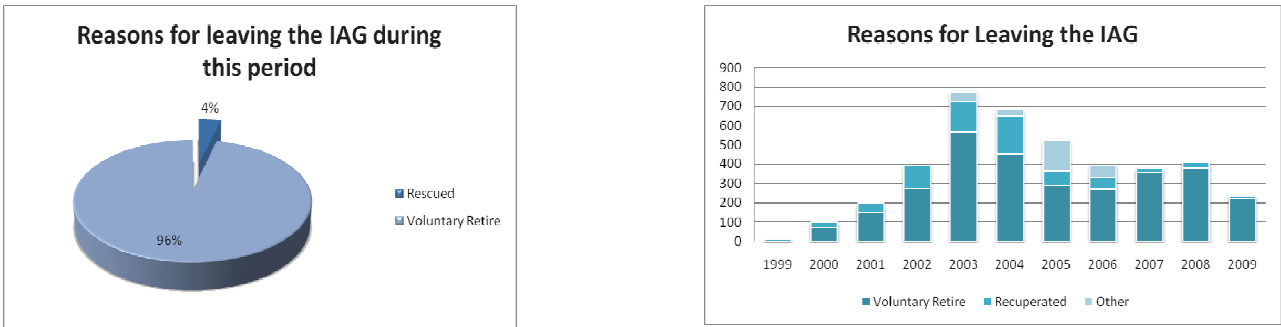
FARC continued to be the IAG who released the highest number of indigenous CH&Y. During 2009, 33 indigenous beneficiaries had been assisted; 24 of them came from FARC and eight from ELN.

Graph No 10: Afro-Colombians within the Consolidation Program



It should be highlighted that during the consolidation program, the number of Afro-Colombian youths released by ELN has increased. Up to date, 16 Afro-Colombian beneficiaries (49%) were disengaged by this IAG.

Graph No 11: Reasons for Children and Youth to Leave IAG



Throughout the duration of the Program CH&Y have mostly left IAGs voluntarily. During 2005 and 2006, a higher number of children and youths were recuperated. During this reporting period, 96% of the new beneficiaries retired voluntarily while only 4% were recuperated.

1.a DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO UNDER-AGE EX-COMBATANTS– ASSISTANCE DURING THE FOUR PHASES

The Program covered 100% of requested assistance, providing education, cultural and health services to 80 new beneficiaries and an average of 663 children and youths. The family environment component provided services to approximately 49% of the beneficiaries; the remaining 51% were assisted through the institutional component.

Joint Plan ICBF –IOM

During the reporting period IOM continued developing a joint plan with ICBF in the two strategic areas of assistance and prevention. IOM and ICBF strengthened local assistance methodologies with the articulation of each service with its respective technical team who focused on the development, systematization and follow-up of PLANTINFA (Spanish acronym)⁴. Technical support was provided in the regional offices of Tolima and Huila with the means of installing new support units for the modalities of *Hogar Gestor*. The Bolivar regional office was visited with an emphasis in articulating the regional equipment of ICBF and follow-up with the regional office of Caldas.

The general management of ICBF hired an external consultant to assess the Program and there were visits to the *Hogares de Atencion Transitoria*, Specialized Attention Centers and *Casa Juvenil*, where the infrastructure conditions activity plans were analyzed. Weaknesses were found in the houses of Bucaramanga, Pereira and Bogota and plans to improve the conditions are underway.

4.Family Assistance Plan

Transit Homes

Three transit homes provided comprehensive assistance, focusing on recreational and educational activities in Valle del Cauca, Santander and Antioquia. There are 90 vacancies (13% of the total coverage) of which when the period ended a total of 61 were being used (11% of the total use). The initial module continues to be implemented in cooperation with SENA which will have emphasis on the technical assistance processes to be developed in the last trimester of the year.

Specialized Assistance Centers (CAE)

The Program continued providing assistance in seven specialized assistance centers located in Bogota, Bolivar, Antioquia, Risaralda, Valle del Cauca and Santander. There are 205 vacancies (27% of total coverage) of which when the period ended 199 were being used (36% of the total use).

The CH&Y benefiting from this service have permanent contact with social networks and services; in general the team participated in the technical assistance processes of each center. CAE continue facing challenges related to aspects of the program like in the case of Valle that received CH&Y from Buenaventura with criminal profiles or in Bogota that due to the absence of HAT, CH&Y received directly begin the first phase. These situations are being analyzed in a joint manner with ICBF to propose better alternatives and solutions.

Casa Juvenil (Youth Home)

A Youth Home is located in Valle del Cauca providing assistance to eleven youths. This assistance modality focused on strengthening the autonomy and co-responsibility of youths and increasing their participation.

1. Increase use of extra-institutional “family” settings.

Trainings between ICBF and IOM took place to analyze and propose strengthening alternatives in the pedagogical and psychosocial models that are implemented in foster homes.

Foster Homes *Hogar Gestor* and *Hogar Tutor* Modalities

Foster homes such as the *Hogares Tutores* in Bogotá assisted 56% of the new beneficiaries; 49% of the available allocations were used.

The number of vacancies in *Hogar Tutor* corresponds to 207 located in Bogota (80), Caldas (42), Meta (45) and Quindio (40) of which 171 are being used nationwide. The *Hogar Tutor* located in Bogota increased its coverage and the strengthening strategy of the assistance processes is maintained. In Meta, *Hogar Tutor* finalized the special monitoring that took place between IOM and ICBF after the difficulties present at the beginning of the year. Locating new CH&Y was prioritized and follow-up and technical monitoring continues. In Caldas there was a meeting between indigenous authorities who recognize the importance of assistance to CH&Y but who also identified the risk for their communities of having children released by IAG in their territories. The possibility of initiating indigenous modalities of *Hogar Tutor* is still subject to analysis on behalf of the communities.

Hogar Gestor

With the help of USAID, three assistance units were created in Huila, Santander and Tolima. The capacitating process was lead by ICBF with the support of IOM and implementing agencies. Each unit was assisted by the according family defender and the units were empowered on concrete topics they must develop like contextual lectures, active search, network strengthening, better approaches to CH&Y and their families as well as direct assistance.

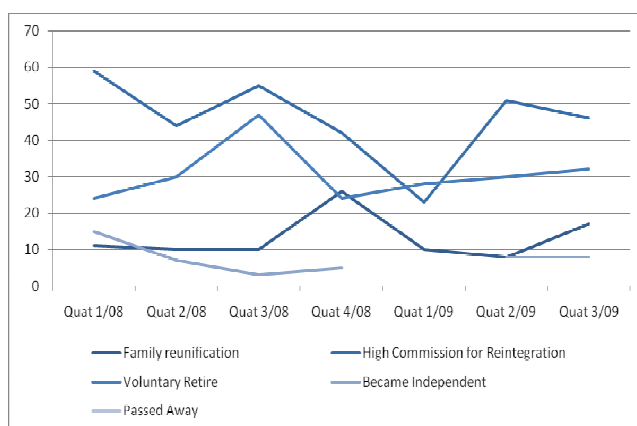
The perspective on strengthening family environment component continues and there are 191 vacancies on a national level of which 94 are being used for CH&Y with their families. It is important to note that for those CH&Y that are with their families and do not have direct economic assistance form ICBF it is due to a variety of reasons like: they are initiating the attention process and there are administrative procedures in place for the delivery of the assistance, the technical team could consider that the assistance is not pertinent, the technical team may not considered the assistance necessary or decided to remove it for difficulties in the process. Nevertheless, psychosocial and technical assistance does take place.

In addition, support units have monitored CH&Y victims of landmines and orphans due to violence in these regions, with a total of 83 processes. The vacancies used in this service are equivalent to 17% of the total of the Program. One hundred percent of the CH&Y in *Hogar Gestor* benefited from complementary support for school transport, training and recreational activities through the assistance given by USAID.

Due to the service being relatively new and that in some cases its deliverance is in secluded and scattered areas of the country, the challenge remains about strengthening the social networks of support especially where institutional presence is weak and vulnerability conditions strong.

Exit Support Options

A total of 104 CH&Y left the Program; of this number four youths are being assisted by different services of ICBF, 25 youths left the Program to reunite with their families; 16 youths started an independent life; 13 retired voluntarily; 46 were remitted to the ACRSE.



1.1. FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES

In Risaralda family reunification took place with the participation of 16 CH&Y of which nine are male and seven female, along with 23 families. This event strengthened the affective ties and witnessed the vulnerable conditions in which the majority of the families live in. This lead the program and ICBF to

develop actions to better the quality of life and diminish the vulnerability of the families in the frame of its institutional mission.

Currently all the teams of CAE, CJ and *Hogares Tutores* are in the process of developing proposals and chronograms of the next event that will take place at the end of the year. IOM and ICBF agreed to reprint and distribute family lineage (solidarity model financed by USAID) that will allow better diffusion and appropriation of the model, its tools and promotion of new approaches for the processes of vulnerability of the benefiting families of ICBF.

Family gatherings were standardized to implement three stages:

Preparation:

ICBF and IOM defined selection criteria for choosing beneficiaries. Program staff established the individual objectives to be achieved with the participants, family and / or networks and organize technical and logistical requirements.

Implementation:

The family meetings took place with the support of Program experts. This scenario allowed the family and/or network to become more responsible for social support to CH&Y.

Evaluation and monitoring:

Program staff organized follow up and evaluation activities with the participation of CH&Y. The main results were mapping in the ICBF information system to reinforce feedback and monitoring actions. A total of 507 youths have permanent contact with their families, 29 youths were orphans and 105 families were internally displaced. These scenarios generate important challenges for the technical teams of the services and ICBF, on the process of psychosocial assistance and the possible effect that difficult situations can generate in the youth.

Capacity building Virtual Training

Program staff organized virtual trainings based on ICBF family assistance guidelines in ten regional offices (Bogotá, Valle del Cauca, Risaralda, Caldas, Quindío, Bolívar, Santander, Casanare, Meta and Arauca). There was emphasis on the distribution of family assistance guidelines N° 2 and 3 and 4 was sent. ICBF reported that the number of participants in the process is of 140 professionals including civil servants and implementing agencies.

This process has strengthened the proposals and implementations in the meetings, as well as the follow-up to the permanent contacts of CH&Y with their significant networks and technical support in the process of family reunification.

1.2. HEALTH

The Program had an average coverage of nine youths in the contributing regime, 238 with subsidiary regime, 311 disengaged youths and nine without information. Nine youths had cognitive disabilities; six youths had mental disorders, and 16 youths had physical disabilities.

A total of 155 youths received general medical assistance; 111 youths received dental care and 88 received specialized medical services. The Program provided HIV/AIDS awareness and sexual health and education services to 35 beneficiaries. A total of 16 adolescents are pregnant and 15 are nursing mothers.

1.2.1 Preventing Psychoactive Substances Use (PSU)

Program strategies helped to reduce substance abuse through prevention, ambulatory assistance and assistance guidelines. Program staff identified that six beneficiaries used psychoactive substances.

2. Consolidation of pedagogical models and “tool kits”.

2.1. EDUCATION

The Program provided educational opportunities for 468 CH&Y who assisted permanently to academic centers. A total of 16 went occasionally (due to illness, lack of motivation, among others), 61 are in the evaluation process and 20 (are in the subscription process, do not want to study or there is no reported information).

With relation to the educational models done by ICBF, it was reported that different specialized leveling pedagogical models were implemented. In terms of schooling there were 540 CH&Y enrolled between first and 11th grade. The breakdown is as follows:

# of CH&Y	Grade
43	1 st grade
32	2 nd grade
47	3 rd grade
58	4 th grade
106	5 th grade
82	6 th grade
53	7 th grade
31	8 th grade
26	9 th grade
14	10 th grade
17	11 th grade
31	Without schooling



Children benefiting from educational activities.

The majority of the CH&Y attended school during the night shift (230) followed by the day shift (199) and some on Saturdays (64). A report on the educational process of CH&Y disengaged from IAG was finalized and is currently being analyzed by the technical teams of IOM and ICBF.

2.2. CULTURE AND RECREATION

The Program pointed out that during this period 295 CH&Y participated in cultural activities, 326 in recreational activities and 275 in sports activities.



Youths participated in recreational activities in Buenaventura.

Program staff in regional offices coordinated the following activities:

- Bolivar: Sports activities
- Risaralda: Theatre activities.
- Bogotá: Library and park visits
- Antioquia: Visits to ecological parks.
- Santander: Recreational activities and park visits
- Valle del Cauca: Sports activities.



1.b LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

3. REFERENCE AND OPPORTUNITY CENTERS (CROJ) AND TRANSFER OF CROJ RESPONSIBILITIES

CROJ improved service delivery for both the social and economic incorporation of 986 youths in 179 municipalities. In the articulation exercise of SENA, ICBF, CROJ and IOM, 46 local worktables were developed in Bogota, Antioquia, Bolivar, Meta, Quindío, Risaralda, Nariño, Tolima, Cauca, Boyacá, Arauca, Norte de Santander, Bolivar, Cesar, Santander and Valle in which officers from the four institutions participated. A total of 382 disengaged youths were referred to SENA of which 78 youths were enrolled on the initial module, 277 enrolled in complementary courses and 78 are advancing in titled formation.

With the help of CROJ, a total of 202 youths were able to attend formation courses at SENA as well as at other institutions. Of the total of youths registered in courses, 42 received subsidies for materials and transportation. Additionally, 21 youths are undergoing internships in different companies like Postobon and Home Center among others.

3.1. Transference of the CROJ model to the GOC

As a result of the inter-institutional articulation process between ICBF, ACRSE and IOM, the Program developed the following activities:

- 1) Evaluation and validation of the CROJ assistance model. The evaluation report was presented during the month of July in an inter-institutional working table that led to the elaboration of the protocol of articulation. Responsibilities were defined as well as accomplishments of the entities in front of the process of entry and exit of the youths in the Program and the entrance to the reintegration process of ACRSE, in the midst of establishing the protocols, being CROJ the articulator and executor of the politics of reintegration.
- 2) CROJ staff started to assist youths from the ACRSE programs as a result of a new inter-institutional articulation protocol. A total of 49 youths were transferred to a CROJ. The process will be finalized in October based on the agreements between the service centers of ACRSE and the CROJ.
- 3) Searching strategy (*Buscando a Nemo*). ICBF, ACRSE and IOM identified the necessity to define and implement a working plan to undergo the verification, search and identification of CH&Y that were not handed over to authorities by the AUC.

3.2. Employment Preparation

The Program strengthened inter-institutional articulation between SENA, ICBF, CROJ and IOM through 46 local worktables that took place in Bogotá, Antioquia, Bolivar, Meta, Quindío, Risaralda, Nariño, Tolima, Cauca, Boyacá, Arauca, Norte de Santander, Cesar, Santander and Valle.

- The program provided employment preparation training for 382 youths.
- Some 78 youths participated in an initial course to identify vocational interests through a diagnosis that matches their skills and aptitudes with demand for labor in their areas of interest. Another 277 youths participated in complementary education courses, such as computer skills, coking, sewing, bakery, environmental impact and craftworks. A total of 78 youths participated in employment formal trainings such as finances, sales, IT and nursing.
- The CROJ referred 202 youths to other institutions to receive formal training.
- The Program provided supplementary assistance to 42 youths for school materials and transportation.
- A total of 21 internships opportunities were provided and currently underway.



3.3. Income Generation Activities

Three income generation projects were funded by the ACRSE. The CROJ presented 53 income generation projects to be funded by the *Welcome Home Fund*⁵ (*Fondo Bienvenido a Casa*); a joint project led by IOM and the *Tejido Humano* Foundation. Of this total, 46 will be income generating projects, five in the area of education and two will be related to well-being.

IOM promoted a new initiative dedicated to coffee, starting with the purchase, packaging and commercialization of this product. It involves 20 disengaged youths and the advances were: perfection and signing of the agreement, selection process of the youths who will participate in the process, initiation of the capacitating process and the purchase the machinery for the project.



4. Colombia's new legal framework

4.1. Reparation and restitution of Rights Programs

There was advancement in the processes of raising awareness and capacitating administrative reparation for victims. A total of 209 people (youth, parents, brothers and wives) received technical assistance through workshops and conferences where they were explained what reparation is about. In 2009, 829 people received information on the reparation processes.

⁵ The new Welcome Home centre, managed by IOM, opened its doors in the capital Bogota to provide returning migrants immediate assistance upon arrival, legal and psychosocial counseling and help to continue their education, find employment or explore opportunities to set up micro enterprises and to access medical care.

In the process of registration with the CNRR there was an inclusion of 158 youths to benefit from administrative reparation for a total accumulated amount of 501 youths this year. The CNRR notified through phone calls a total of 32 youths, where they were informed that their process was being studied, reaching a total of 566 youth referred by the CROJ.

***Reparation and reconciliation Program in Trujillo (Department of Valle)
(Massacre of 1990)***

During the development of the project, contact has been achieved and articulated with different institutions. There was a collective construction of alternatives for the community that will allow the reestablishment of social threads, trust, and political activity. The Program established two working groups: community mothers raised awareness to identify and strengthen organization aspects and youths who are aware of the problematic.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The articulation between national headquarters and zonal centers with support from the legal interns (financed by USAID) continues to be a pertinent strategy for the implementation of identity documents of the CH&Y.

Total Youths	Administrative Situation		Youths without Identification Documents
	Youths with open Cases	Youths with CODA Certificates	
559	386	404	47

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

<i>Reintegration Conditions Index (ICR)</i>	<i>SAME</i>
<p>The transference of ICR to all the Program services was finalized. In relation to the follow-up of the instrument in each of the respective services the findings are as follows: 54 ICR applied for the first time and 24 as second application.</p> <p>There was an agreement with ICBF about the transferring of the instrument to all units of support.</p> <p>In the CROJ there were 191 ICR applied to youths.</p>	<p>The Program achieved the inclusion of a total of 80% of the population served. A refinement process is currently underway with the means of solving everything with relation to changes of some variables.</p>
<i>SIMONI</i>	
<p>The process of improving the storage of information of the system is underway under the supervision of the engineering team of ICBF. IOM contributed to the definition of seven key indicators that will give a progressive look on the process of restitution of rights of disengaged youths.</p>	

Beneficiaries Life Story:

Jessica is a 21-year old who always has a smile on her face. She describes herself as a fighter and a person always willing to help others. Currently she lives with her partner and her family-in-law and has a good relationship with them. With USAID/IOM Consolidation Program to Support Child Ex-Combatants and Prevent Recruitment of Children by IAG, Jessica finished high school. She later enrolled in an auxiliary accountable secretarial course and received psychosocial attention as well as health, culture and community participation. She received economic assistance from the High Council for Social and Economic Reintegration (ACRSE) and is benefiting from the Youth Reference and Opportunities Centre (CROJ) located in the coffee region of Colombia. She is currently receiving training from the program “BE Social” of the ACRSE to become a practitioner of good practices within her community.



Jessica enjoys reading and one day hopes to become a lawyer.

Jessica dreams of studying law and specializing abroad, but to obtain this she needs to get a job. Jessica recounts that she is glad that the life she had while she was part of an irregular armed groups is now over. “I did not have very good relations with my mother because she took care of the sick in the guerrilla. I was always immersed in this world and I ended up being part of them because I did not have any alternatives with my own family.... While in the group I had to do everything: cook, carry firewood, be on guard duty, etc...” Her parents never took charge of her and she was under the care of family members or persons close to the family. While being part of an armed group Jessica suffered many moments hard to forget, like when they tried to sexually abused her.

After being in an armed group two years, something happened that for her was the best thing that could have happened: “During a military confrontation I got lost for almost three days and I ended up in a farm. I stayed in the farm a few days and later I went to see my aunt but she did not allow me to stay. Later my dad picked me up and handed me in.”

From that moment on, she has surpasses her problems and now everything in her life are opportunities to succeed and help others to prevent that they get involved like her, in irregular armed groups. She conducts presentations where she shares her life experience and gives her testimony of what it was like being in an armed group and how she got out of it and turned her life around. She believes that if there is a good will and support everything is possible and the life of youths outside irregular armed groups can be a life full of hope and expectations. Thanks to the support of USAID Jessica now has the opportunity for a different future

B. PREVENTION COMPONENT

The Program's second specific objective is to work with local institutions and communities to reduce the risk of recruitment by IAG in geographic areas where children are most vulnerable. Prevention included three main elements: 1) support to the National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment CIPR; 2) application of Law 1098/2006 and other changes to national policy that mobilize official resources to prevent recruitment; 3) public education and other social investment that support Program objectives. Taken as a whole, Prevention activities worked to re-make national attitudes about child combatants.

The Prevention Training component this quarter surpassed the proposal assistance goal with a total of 22,821 new beneficiaries and recruitment prevention activities nationwide.

1. Support for the National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment (CIPR)

IOM provided support to the CIPR through different strategies described below:

- Capacity building activities took place in order to disseminate the appropriation of politics of the inter-sectorial commission. This was done in 23 municipalities with 351 people participating as well as local authorities, members of organizations, community leaders and other entities.
- Cultural transformation was implemented in eight municipalities.
- Prevention of violence was enforced in eleven municipalities where seven meetings took place with local authorities and counted with the participation of 150 people. Nine community spaces were identified and three events about violence prevention took place.
- Emphasis on child participation was conducted in 13 municipalities as well as in two departments. Ten trainings were conducted where transference of methodologies was prioritized.
- Technical training and strengthening of COMPOS and children working tables with 85 participants in COMPOS and 194 child tables.
- Awareness of legal education for youths, work with justice houses and cohabitation centres was implemented in 18 municipalities.
- Social mobilization was highlighted in four municipalities.



National recruitment prevention policy approved

The CIPR developed and strengthened local public policies where forced migration is present. Program staff visited 13 new municipalities of the 113 targeted, and actions were implemented in 27 municipalities. Such efforts were: 23 concrete actions plans, 59 areas of focused intervention and seven prevention projects being studied.

Municipalities with Recruitment Prevention Activities under Implementation

A total of 23 municipalities nationwide, two districts and two localities developed recruitment prevention strategies with the Commission. As a result, 351 beneficiaries participated in these processes.

Regional committees to prevent irregular recruitment functioning

Two regional committees assumed the national recruitment prevention policy; their action plans are under implementation in Antioquia and Chocó.

Social Cartography Activities

A total of 32 social cartography projects were implemented in 13 municipalities, with the participation of 872 children.

2. Law 1098/06 and Other Public Policy

Public Policy for Youths (Agreement between Governors Office in Meta and IOM): The technical team was hired and the operational working plan was drafted. The achievements were: (i) political, technical and administrative engagement with the formulation process of the Youth Public Policy in 26 municipalities of Meta; the Program helped organize the Municipal Youths Councils in five municipalities, (ii) organization and development of 48 awareness workshops, (iii) development of technical skills to map available institutional offers available for the youths, (iv) recompilation of information of youths aspects using different official or private institutional sources of the department.

Public Policy of Adolescents and youths in Nariño: Technical assistance took place for the project on prevention of child recruitment by IAG in ten public social policy councils. For the strengthening process to have a coherent and articulated structure, a document is being elaborated called “Strengthening for the Operation of Public Social Policy Councils.” A proposal was developed on organizational structure with two main committees: technical and operational. The second version of the document on public policy was structured in four main areas: (i) opportunities to access services like education, health, shelter, and human security, (ii) participation and active citizenship, (iii) integral development and safe surroundings, (iv) protection for adolescents and youths at risk.

Departmental development plans include Prevention activities and methodologies (as well as additional municipal plans)

The Program participated in inter-institutional worktables to prevent children recruitment in the south of Tolima and Montes de Maria regions. In Tolima workshops were developed where youths were given farming and agriculture training and they worked on creating productive initiatives. A total of 282 youths in risk of recruitment benefited from the trainings. IOM and *Fundacion Red Desarrollor y Paz de los Montes de Maria* implemented a Project which its main components are: (i) contribute with human development and improvement of organizational capacities and abilities, participation and leadership of CH&Y (ii) implement institutional actions that facilitate empowerment of the youth and encourage change. The Project benefited 375 youths belonging to youth’s networks in the 15 municipalities of the Montes de Maria region.

In Nariño the second phase of MRVO was implemented with the formulation and execution of youth’s initiatives. A workshop and project formulation took place and nine initiatives were presented which were approved by the committee. Among the initiatives are: school of dance, school of sports, virtual and interactive education during free time. There were refreshments and transportation available with the mothers of the children.

In Arauca, the program located 204 youths in rural areas without schooling of which 147 have accessed the educational system through the rural education service. A total of 54% of the participants have commenced on productive initiatives; 59 productive projects and 38 initiatives are in the process of being implemented. In the trainings for teachers there were 165 agents and 17 lecturers that acquired psychosocial tools. The Program transferred MIMA methodology to a group of 52 teachers to evaluate income generation projects for youths. In each educational centre a campaign on strengthening peace implementing groups through student forums was prioritized. The process of round tables to share experiences with educational communities implementing peace and coexistence will take place during the month of October with the aim of strengthening knowledge and follow up on student proposed activities.

Support for Key Institutions (Office of the Inspector General, Prosecutor General's Office, etc)

- The Program supported the ***Office of the Inspector General***, providing technical assistance on childhood issues to the Inspector of Infancy, Adolescence and Family by formulating a training project. The project aims at strengthening institutional capacities to assist adolescents and youths with legal problems to avoid their reengagement with irregular groups or prevent their recruitment by IAG.
- IOM assisted different national, departmental and municipal institutions through technical assistance. Some of the efforts achieved were:
 - Assistance to the Presidential Program of *ColombiaJoven* initiative through the implementation of CONPES.
 - Participation in a conference on infancy, adolescence and youth in Magdalena.
 - Monitoring of the first encounter of Mayors for infancy and adolescence in Casanare.
 - Technical assistance for the Governors event on infancy, adolescence and youth that will take place in Amazonas and will focus on children's right to education.
 - Participation in a working table on infancy, adolescence and youth with *Accion Social*.
 - Support to the third phase of the youth initiative project *Jovenes Conviven por Bogotá*.
 - Technical assistance to youth public policy formulation in Soacha.
 - Participation in the Colombian children alliance and educational alliance for peace.

3. Public Education: Local-level Activities – MVRO and other.

- *Aulas de Paz* initiative was created along with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF. The main achievements were: 1) Completion of the training program for 486 teachers. 2) Provided technical assistance and monitoring to the Education Secretaries; and 3) Provided management training to educative institutions directives.
 - The agreements reached with public educational institutions was implemented, which aims at teacher trainings, and provided significant inputs for the validation of this education levelling model implementing experience of the Program as an option of practice.
 - The Program signed agreements with local administrations to encourage programs to spread resources like food supply, transport and materials and contextualize the real

necessities of the region. Program staff designed formats to evaluate the implementing activities so that the fundamental information can be collected. The Project benefited 600 Afro-Colombian and Indigenous CH&Y, who benefited directly from the Programs activities.

- For the Project on Pedagogy and Child Protection in the departments of Nariño, Putumayo and Meta, there was an evaluation on the implementation and design of the pedagogical accomplishments. These accomplishments were implemented to install a mechanism so youths are able to mediate conflicts.
- The Program developed a proposal with the Ministry of Education that will benefit 1,000 CH&Y that are without schooling in Chocó.
- With the indigenous community Mutilon Bari, the second phase of the prevention strategy was implemented through the use of MRVO methodology and development of youth's initiatives. This project will benefit 300 CH&Y.
- The Program continued to provide technical assistance on food security to four Indigenous communities (Eperara Siapidara - Nariño; Wipiwi – Casanare; Nukak Makú – Guaviare; Sikuai - Arauca).
- ICBF, IOM and local institutions in Ruissucio and Supía (Caldas) continued to strengthen recruitment prevention strategies. Project strategies were based on the MVRO methodology and benefited Indigenous children and adolescents, and community leaders from the *Embera Chamí Community*.
- With the *Fundacion Paz y Bien*, the Mayor's office in Cali, *Fundacion Tierra de Hombres* and the University of Valle, a proposal was implemented that will focus on MVRO methodology in the district of Agua Blanca. The proposal will consolidate the history of displacement of Afro-Colombian families and CH&Y of the district.
- In Nariño the Program provided assistance to 40 families and 225 persons out of which 63% are CH&Y; IOM provided technical training to indigenous leaders on food security and community participation. The Program prioritized the importance of children's rights in Nariño due to the ethnic diversity of the department.
- With the Occidental Petroleum Company and *Fundacion Alcaravan* a proposal was formulated to develop the second phase of the strengthening process of educational institutions in Arauca and Arauquita as part of the prevention component.
- With the Governors Office in Caldas an agreement was reached that will support and strengthen the processes, actions and programs that have been developed regarding the politics of infancy, adolescence and youths.
- The second phase of an educational project with an indigenous community in Pasto was finalized, which will integrate the prevention component through the implementation of the MVRO methodology. For 2010, the goal is to provide technical and financial resources to develop the prevention strategy and develop MRVO methodology in the municipalities of Samana and Norcacia which are affected by this phenomenon.

MVRO initiatives

- Three processes were started related to the development of risk map methodology in the departments of Antioquia, Norte de Santander and Meta.
- In Antioquia, with the cooperation of UNICEF and GIDES Corporation, a project about strengthening prevention strategies against child recruitment was launched. The Project aims at developing the risk map methodology and will benefit 1,200 CH&Y. A workshop was organized for 30 people from GIDES and the local government among other participants.
- In Norte de Santander a project about promotion of rights of CH&Y and strengthening of public policy was implemented and focused on reinforcing education processes, development and reinforcement of youth organizations and support to the construction of infancy and adolescence politics.
- In Nariño, a workshop on MVRO methodology was conducted with the participation of 22 professionals of educational institutions.
- In Meta, IOM implemented the process of constructing prevention strategies for recruitment of CH&Y through the use MRVO. The project will benefit two educational institutions and 100 CH&Y.

3.3. Regional and National Awareness Campaigns

Program staff fostered communication and visibility strategy objectives through: a) mapping activities; b) drafting best practices documents; c) beneficiaries' life stories documents; d) organizing and restructuring the International Seminar.

The prevention component of the Program assisted CIPR, *Fundacion Restrepo Barco* and UNICEF, organize the first international congress on prevention of recruitment by IAG, which will be possible thanks to the financial support of USAID and Italian cooperation.

IOM along with ICBF and the Programs beneficiaries is organizing a concert for the ten year anniversary of the Program to give visibility to the consequences of child recruitment.

4. Other Social Investment

Strengthening of the Strategy of *Tiempo de Juego*: An agreement was elaborated with the *Fundacion Arcangeles* and *Fundacion Tiempo de Juego*, to develop a strategy that has the objective of preventing recruitment of 600 CH&Y in the areas of Petares (200 Cartagena) and Cazuca (400 Soacha), through the improvement of their quality of life, access to basic social services, trainings and strengthening of collective income generating initiatives.



CH&Y practicing in sports activities through the help of *Tiempo de Juego* in Cazuca.

Strengthening of Prevention Component and Use of CH&Y by IAG: IOM and the community of *Padres Somascus* developed an agreement to prevent the recruitment of CH&Y in the townships of Medellin through a rural strategy.

Training Project for Vulnerable Youths for Employment and Human Development: ETCAR-IOM Plumbing Training: The project benefited 20 youths in high vulnerability conditions living in El Pozon and Nelson Mandela neighbourhoods of Cartagena. The implementing period of the project is of four months. The Program selected 21 youths who will be trained on the required skills for income generation projects and business management.

Strengthening Family Project to Improve the Living Conditions of Communities in Emerald Areas in the Municipalities of Muzo and San Pablo de Borbur: This project assisted 300 families whose children are in high risk of recruitment because they undergo child labour and are part of the easiest population for recruitment by IAG. In agreement with ICBF, *Fedesmeralda* proposed the project and required IOM technical assistance and USAID support.

Strengthening of Seymukekun: Through the unit of public and private alliances, support for the commercialization of soaps and natural essences continued as well as the strategic alliance with Aviatur S.A.

Tena Visit- *Fundacion Formemos*: The project is located in a ten hectare space where there is educational infrastructure and a complete education cycle from pre-school until 11th grade. There is a dorm area for girls and one for boys as well as an area for farming and bakery. There are plans to strengthen this project as a scenario for many boy and girls that are in risk situations and that can get access to trainings at these facilities.

Income Generation Projects of *Clubes Juveniles* through CROJ

Through the CROJ strategy, IOM continued supporting the referral and access to basic social service networks to 3,630 youths from *Clubes Juveniles* of ICBF, which make part of the prevention programs in different municipalities of the country. With the support of USAID, 94 income generation projects were implemented.

The function of the *Clubes Juveniles* is to facilitate the productive use of the free time of the youths as prevention strategies against drug use, child labour, school drop out, child and juvenile prostitution and other forms of violence or vulnerability conditions that favour the participation with IAG.

Beneficiaries' Life Story:

Prevention Story- Dulcin

With the help of USAID, just a few hours from Bogota is a brown sugarloaf (panela⁶) factory, where several young girls are commercializing this product into eight gram sachets. The beneficiaries live in substitute homes provided by ICBF, a modality that places vulnerable youths in adequate family settings.

Mary is one of several adolescent girls benefiting from the Program in Villeta, which the CROJ modality supports and provides technical assistance. Her mother was brutally murdered in front of her

⁶ Unrefined food product found in Colombia.

when she was only eight and her father sexually abused her for many years. She is just 16 but dreams about seeing the ocean and getting on a plane.

Mary has been working at the brown sugarloaf factory and has been attending school for the past five months. She lives with a substitute mother that encourages her to keep busy and exceed in her studies. The factory where the girls work provides them with a source of income that they can later spend on personal goods. All of the girls are undergoing an orthodontist treatment to fix their teeth, which they are all paying with the money earned from the project. They are a very close team that has undergone different levels of abuse in their homes or abandonment.

When asked what Mary enjoys doing in her free time she says she enjoys playing basketball and interacting with younger children of the neighborhood. Her goal is to keep working hard to help her siblings succeed like she did. She confesses that the project has changed her life 100% because they were disorganized girls and being part of this project has helped them become more centered and focused on achieving their goals and improving their quality of life.

Thanks to USAID support girls like Mary have a different choice than to join irregular armed groups.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR COLOMBIANIZATION

IOM strengthened different Colombian institutions, as follows:

- At the national level 49 youth's organizations participated in the process of elaborating youth's public policy in Meta
- Office of the inspector general
- National Ministry of Education
- National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment
- Working tables on recruitment prevention strategies in Antioquia and Chocó
- ICBF
- Secretary Social Integration (SDIS)

Four Governors Offices in:

- Nariño
- Meta
- Cesar
- Tolima
- Magdalena
- Antioquia
- Chocó

Exit Strategy Planning

In the definition and achievements on the differential perspective of the ACRSE for the assistance of youths, there was advancement in the construction of objectives and emphasis on relevant aspects. The general objective seeks to promote the construction of a responsible entity in the legal frame for the youths and with the specific objectives there is a search for:

- Intervening to obtain processes of redefining violence and experiences of youths in armed groups
- Develop capacities for the exercise of responsible sexuality

- Create scenarios that promote and allow the participation of youths in cultural, political, sport and artistic contexts
- Develop prevention strategies of repetition or use of violence

CROJ assists to ensure exit scenario. Currently 986 disengaged youths are active (receive some sort of service during the trimester) in the CROJ, located on 179 municipalities. The highest concentration of the population is found in Cundinamarca, Antioquia and Valle del Cauca.

Through the processes of reference a total of 163 new youths benefited from health services, 286 in formal education and of these, 64 received transport and material subsidies. A total of 681 youths participated in socio-cultural activities, where important alliances have been created with different recreation and sport institutions. In terms of identification processes, 33 youths were assisted to obtain their military booklet, judicial past or identity cards and 95 members of their families were referred to the relevant centres.

A total of 921 youths, received assistance for reintegration on behalf of the ACRSE, in comparison with the last reporting period there was an increase of 91 youths.

There was pertinent insecurity present during the development of the processes due to threats. During the trimester 19 youths were in risk situations. Of these, three were transferred to other cities and the rest received advice on security measures. A joint meeting between ICBF and IOM took place in order to revise the advancement and development of the joint plan and its achievement level.

The Program drafted a document that compiles best practices and lessons learned during the last ten years. This book will be launched during the first week of November.

5. LESSONS LEARNED

Main lessons learned can be summarized as follows:

- ***The identification of articulated productive projects to the economic vocations of the regions*** with the support of the private sector is a formula that diminished risk factors in front of sustainability and development of productive projects.

6. PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING TERM

- Continue strengthening the transference processes of the new articulation protocol between ICBF-ACRSE-IOM given the difficulties that have been presented in the beginning of its local implementation
- Work along with the security team of ACRSE in relation to the youths threatened in the CROJ.
- Support the institutional improvement plans that the external consultant suggests for the service centers of the program
- Organization and monitoring of the international seminar on recruitment prevention and assistance to ex-combatant children.

- Design and conduct training on awareness of the ten years of the program (launching of life stories, book of the ten years, national encounter and concert)
- Continue with the efforts to distinguish the differentiated attention of *Hogares Tutores*

7. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

In relation to the internship opportunities in Canada, the process was finalized but the internships did not take place due to the Canadian Embassy not authorizing visas to the youths and ICBF professionals. The embassy said that this population does not fulfill the profile to enter Canada and the program is exploring other countries such as Chile.

8. CONCLUSIONS

This quarter had a great impact on achieving main goals proposal. There was a focus on prioritizing the differential assistance for indigenous communities, completing the ICR transfer in the institutional setting, progress on the proposal about giving visibility to the program and the ten year celebration approaching in November. The Program was able to achieve visibility within the ICBF with the CROJ project. There was continuous assistance to complementary support for the social insertion of CH&Y.

10. ANNEXES



Fundación Paz y Bien, making kite as an strategy for “restaurando relaciones” (Restoring relations), Project Francisco Esperanza, Aguablanca district, Cali (Valle) August, 2009



Fundación Paz y Bien, Aguablanca district, Cali (Valle) August, 2009



Fundación Paz y Bien, Aguablanca district, Cali (Valle) August, 2009



Fundación Paz y Bien, strategy for “restaurando relaciones” (Restoring relations), Project Francisco Esperanza, Aguablanca district, Cali (Valle) August, 2009



CROJ CARIBE working groups. Cesar.



Tent Buenavista CROJ EJE CAFETERO.



CROJ GAOML. Tuluá, september 2009



NAJ-383. CROJ and GAOML. Cali. September 2009